



Update to the Community:

Spring 2017

Rep. Grace Napolitano

Proudly representing California's 32nd Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives: Azusa - Baldwin Park - City of Industry - Covina - Duarte - El Monte - Glendora - Irwindale - La Puente - La Verne - Monrovia - San Dimas - West Covina

www.napolitano.house.gov * facebook.com/RepGraceNapolitano * twitter.com/gracenapolitano

Promoting Mental Wellness, Saving Lives

May Mental Health Month 2017



Napolitano, Chair of the Mental Health Caucus, met with fellow Members of Congress to decrease stigma in May 2017.

Mental health advocates and individuals across the country raised critical awareness and reduced stigma of mental health. Learn about warning signs, ways to fight stigma, new contacts, and view a full recap of May Mental Health Month at napolitano.house.gov/legislative-work/may-mental-health-awareness-month.

The Mental Health in Schools Act

Congresswoman Napolitano and Congressman John Katko (R-NY-19) will soon reintroduce the Mental Health in Schools Act (H.R.1211 in the 114th Congress), to fund pilot programs with critical on-site school-based mental health services administered by clinicians. Patterned after Napolitano's successful local area pilot program of 2001—begun in 4 schools, now serving 26 schools in LA County with county Mental Health Dept. financial support and has a waiting list of schools—this proposal educates on the warning signs and symptoms of mental illness and treats students so they can be referred directly to clinicians on site in schools with the goal of promoting mental wellness, reducing stigma, and ensuring a brighter future for our youngsters. More info: napolitano.house.gov/legislative-work/mental-health-schools-act

Youth ChalleNGe Update



With Co-Chair David McKinley (R-WV-01) & Congressional Youth ChalleNGe Caucus, Napolitano secured \$155 million for 2017, a \$5 million increase, for new National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Programs (NGYCP), which enhance education levels, life skills, and employment potential of 16-18 year old youth at risk. Expansion to form a new program in LA County is a top goal; 70% of Sunburst (Los Alamitos) graduates come from LA County. Other CA sites in San Luis Obispo and Stockton. Updates/Info: napolitano.house.gov/issue/youth-challenge.

32nd District Mental Health Initiatives

- **Task Force** - A group of prominent figures who volunteer their work to reduce the stigma against mental health and raise awareness for Napolitano's Mental Health in Schools Act (H.R. 1211 in 114th Congress). Current members include: Metta World Peace, former NBA Player and current high school basketball coach; actor Arjay Smith; NFL (New York Giants) Wide Receiver Brandon Marshall and his wife Michi Marshall, World Boxing Cares Chair Jill Diamond, and First Lady of New York City, Chirlane McCray.
- **Consortium** - Since 2006, a dedicated group of local mental health professionals and advocates meets quarterly with great speakers to discuss and also share mental health related information, advising the Congresswoman on public mental health policy and related issues. Topics include: youth, seniors, veterans, local and state health care resources. If interested, contact Barbara Dickerson at 626-350-0150.

2017 Women of the Year Honored



Napolitano discusses volunteer issues with women recognized for exemplary service to their communities.

EL MONTE—On April 21, local unsung heroines were honored for exemplary service to their communities at the 2017 Women of the Year award ceremony. Each woman's name was submitted by her volunteer organization or community group that felt her contributions deserved special recognition. Napolitano gave out the awards and thanked the 21 women personally:

Rosa Atempa, Taking Responsibility and Control (T.R.A.C.) Neighborhood Watch * **Mercedes Castro**, Azusa Recreation and Family Services * **Veronica Cole**, Azusa Police Department * **Donna Crippen**, City of El Monte * **Odette Cuccaro**, Monrovia Chamber of Commerce * **Frances Divine**, City of La Verne Community Services Department * **Trudy Garnier**, Baldwin Park Woman's Club * **Connie Garrison**, Foothill Unity Center, Inc. * **Julie Gentile**, City of Monrovia * **Jocelyn Lopez**, California Mental Health Connection * **Karlene Morris**, Taylor House in West Covina * **Lorraine O'Brien**, Baldwin Park Historical Society * **Donna Redman**, City of La Verne * **Josie Rivera**, Baldwin Park Adult and Community Education * **Martha Rund**, Monrovia Historic Preservation Group (MOHPG) * **Dorothy Smith**, City of Duarte * **LaShonda Spencer, M.D.**, Foothill Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority * **Helen Storland**, Glendora Public Library and Board of Library Trustees * **Esperanza "Tita" Tigno**, St. John the Baptist Catholic Church * **Patti Tris**, Interfaith Council * **Theresa "Tess" Velasco**, El Monte/South El Monte Chamber of Commerce.

Fighting for Seniors, Protecting Social Security for All

Napolitano is a proud cosponsor with Rep. John Larson (CT-01) of the **Social Security 2100 Act (H.R. 1902)**, new legislation to ensure seniors’ access to Social Security, which would provide:

- A tax cut for over 10 million Social Security recipients by raising the threshold on taxation of benefits*
- Benefit bump beginning in 2018 for current & new beneficiaries
- Protection for low-income workers by raising the minimum benefit from below the poverty line to 25%
- Long-term protection against inflation for cost of living adjustments (COLA)

*Source/info: larson.house.gov/social-security-2100.



Army Corps’ Stormwater Capture Boosts Water Supply for SoCal

Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) increases stormwater capture at SoCal dams to recharge aquifers and combat drought, leading to the collection of nearly 100k Acre Feet (AF) of water, up significantly from a year ago, after 2017 winter storm events:

- **42,000 AF at Whittier Narrows Dam, water for 336,000 people for a year, saving approximately \$33.6 million**
- **52,000 AF at nearby Prado Dam, water for 416,000 people for a year, saving approximately \$41.6 million.***

Napolitano’s amendment authorized ACE to capture additional water in two local dams during storms for aquifer replenishment following 2016, the hottest year on record. Napolitano is the highest-ranking California member of the House Transportation/Infrastructure Committee where she serves as Ranking Member (Co-Chair) of the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment. Info: napolitano.house.gov/issue/water.

*Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District

Drought Not Over; Must Continue To Do Our Part to Conserve Water

California is the land of water extremes, indicated clearly by a 5-year stretch of one of the driest periods on record and the recent severe winter rain storms, snowfalls, and flooding. These extreme swings from drought to flood are the new normal, demanding continued conservation become a way of life for all Californians. “The drought is not over!” Napolitano said. “As our population and state economy continue to grow, our needs for water will increase, and we must be smarter with how we manage and use it. This means we must all do our part to conserve every drop of water.”

FREE

Senior Fraud Prevention Seminars, hosted by Congresswoman Napolitano

Seniors! Learn how to protect yourself against scams by hearing from representatives from the Social Security Administration, Internal Revenue Service, United States Postal Services, and Covina Police Department. 2 upcoming free events:

Monrovia
Thursday, June 8 from 11:00am to 1:00pm
Library Community Room
321 S. Myrtle Ave, Monrovia

Azusa
Friday, June 9 from 9:30am to 11:30am
Temporary Senior Center: Valleydale Community Center 5525 N Lark Ellen Ave, Azusa

For more info, contact the El Monte Office at 626-350-0150.

115th Congress Committee Assignments

Transportation and Infrastructure—covering surface (cars, buses, trucks) transportation, freight and passenger rail, aviation, inland waterways, international maritime commerce, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers water projects, and the federal clean water program. Napolitano was again selected to be Ranking Member (Co-Chair) on the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment with jurisdiction over U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) and EPA Clean Water Act programs; also serving on three additional subcommittees: 1) Highways and Transit 2) Aviation and 3) Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management. Info: democrats.transportation.house.gov.

Natural Resources—overseeing energy production, mineral lands and mining, fisheries and wildlife, water management, public lands, oceans, and Native American issues. Current member and Former Ranking Member (Co-Chair) on Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans. For more info, democrats.naturalresources.house.gov.

Water-Saving & Handy Tips

- UPGRADE WITH WATER-EFFICIENT SHOWERHEADS & TOILETS
- USE DROUGHT-RESISTANT PLANTS
- USE A BROOM INSTEAD OF A HOSE TO CLEAN DRIVEWAYS & SIDEWALKS
- FIX LEAKY FAUCETS - DRIPS CAN WASTE HUNDREDS OF GAL/YR
- RUN WASHING MACHINE & DISHWASHER WITH FULL LOADS ONLY
- TURN OFF WATER WHEN BRUSHING TEETH OR SHAVING
- SHORTEN YOUR SHOWERS - JUST 1 MINUTE LESS CAN SAVE UP TO 5 GAL/DAY
- CHECK SPRINKLERS FOR LEAKS & DRIPS - CUT WATERING DAYS

For info on CA’s drought & tips, visit napolitano.house.gov/issue-water.

Investing in Youth, Our Future Leaders

Napolitano is a proud cosponsor with Rep. Pramila Jayapal (WA-07) of the **College for All Act (H.R. 1880)**, new legislation to make public colleges and universities tuition-free for working families and to significantly reduce student debt:

- Would eliminate tuition and fees at four-year public colleges and universities for families making up to \$125,000 and make community college tuition- and fee-free for all
- Would eliminate or reduce tuition and fees for low-income students at private colleges and universities that serve these individuals such as Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs), like the University of La Verne, Azusa Pacific University, Life Pacific College & Citrus College in the 32nd District
- Would cut all student loan interest rates in half: New undergraduate borrowers would drop from 3.76% to just 1.88%; Ensures rates for undergraduate borrowers never rise above 5% and rates for non-undergraduate borrowers never rise above 8.25%.*

*Source: jayapal.house.gov/sites/jayapal.house.gov/files/College%20For%20All%20Act%20Final%202-Pager.pdf



Napolitano discusses education issues with students from Clifton Middle School (Monrovia) outside her Washington, D.C. office on April 4, 2017.

Resources for students of all ages available at:
napolitano.house.gov/resources/students

Military Academy Nominees

2017 nominations for appointment to the Air Force, West Point, Naval, Coast Guard, and Merchant Marine Academies allow high school graduates opportunities to serve their country for a minimum of nine years: four years free tuition studying at an academy valued at over \$350k and five years in the respective branch of the U.S. Military. Nominees for 2016 were:

U.S Naval Academy

Joseph James Muell, Covina, Charter Oak High School
Ashley M. Zepeda, La Puente, La Puente High School
Joseph E. Mireles, Monrovia, St. Monica Academy*

Air Force Academy

Nicole Agob, Azusa, Azusa High School*
Brenda Paola Briseno, West Covina, South Hills HS
Sidney Robert Flores, West Covina, Bishop Amat HS
James Spicer, Monrovia, Monrovia HS/Air Force Prep*
Samuel C. Yagoda, La Verne, Claremont High School

Coast Guard Academy

Jordan M. Yriarte, Covina, South Hills High School*

*Indicates nominee has already received acceptance to academy.



Napolitano welcomes a student and his parent to her 2016 Military Academy Day at the West Covina Senior Citizen Center on October 29, 2016.

Students wanting to serve their country, ages 17 to 22, may apply for a Military Academy nomination in November, request an Academy Nomination Application Form, and attend our annual Military Academy Day event with family to ask questions from attending representatives of academies. It is highly recommended to inquire about military academies during their freshman year, acquaint themselves with the programs, and build a strong resume. Contact Hector Elizalde at 626-350-0150 or visit napolitano.house.gov/serving-you/military-academy-nominations.

2017 Artistic Discovery

May 6—An event honoring the winners was held at the Walker House in San Dimas, culminating the 2017 Art Contest. Millyna Liu, an 11th grader at Baldwin Park High School won 1st place with her drawing, “Off in the Distance” and will fly with family in June to Washington, joining fellow artists from across the country. Liu’s piece will be on display in the Capitol for a year. 2nd place winner Catherine Chow of South Hills High School’s “The Mirror” will hang in Napolitano’s Washington Office, and Daniel Chan of Northview High School’s 3rd place untitled piece will be displayed in the El Monte Office. “Our youngsters have amazing talents, and we must do all we can to recognize them in positive ways,” Napolitano said. “Congratulations to the winners and to all young artists who submitted entries this year. You are all winners,”

Napolitano said. To view all artwork submitted by 32nd Congressional District students, visit facebook.com/RepGraceNapolitano.



Top 3 Art Contest winners. From R to L: Daniel Chan (3rd place); Millyna Liu (1st place); and Catherine Chow (2nd place)

Updates from Congress

Contact us:

Capitol Office

1610 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515
tel.: (202) 225-5256
fax: (202) 225-0027

District Office

4401 Santa Anita Ave, #201
El Monte, CA 91731
tel.: (626) 350-0150
fax: (626) 350-0450

Online

www.napolitano.house.gov

Grace F. Napolitano
M.C.
PRSRT STD



This mailing was prepared, published and mailed at taxpayer expense.

Proudly Serving San Gabriel Valley Veterans & Their Families

Congresswoman Grace F. Napolitano Hosts



**FREE 6th Annual
Veterans Forum**

**Saturday,
June 17, 2017**

Saturday, June 17—Inviting any and ALL local veterans to the Azusa California National Guard Armory, 1351 W. Sierra Madre Ave, Azusa, to our FREE Veterans Assistance Forum. Come meet with VA representatives one-on-one, receive physical/mental health exams, and participate in workshops on veteran-related issues. Registration at 8am, Program begins at 8:30am. For questions about the forum, call Hector Elizalde at 626-350-0150.

More info on VA claims/ benefits: napolitano.house.gov/resources/veterans.

Services for Vets: Visit or Call

- “Feds Hire Vets.” Gives vets priority for government jobs. www.fedshirevets.gov
- “Post-9/11 GI Bill” and “Montgomery GI Bill” college tuition. www.gibill.va.gov
- VA Home Loans buy or refinance a home. www.homeloans.va.gov
- Medical treatment and benefits www.vba.va.gov or call the El Monte Office at (626) 350-0150 for VA case assistance.
- “Coaching into Care” help family & friends to assist veterans with mental health issues. 1-888-823-7458 or visit www.mirecc.va.gov/coaching/
- Post-Traumatic Stress (PTS) - 1-800-342-9647 - www.ptsd.va.gov for assistance.

Constituent Services Guide

- Academy Appointments: High school students and their parents interested in information to one of the U.S. military academies should contact our office early in their freshman year.
- Flags: Purchase an American Flag flown over the U.S. Capitol for a special day or event. Please request your flags at least one month before the event to ensure it is flown on the requested day.
- Immigration/ Naturalization: Secure assistance for application procedures: visas, work permits, legal residency and naturalization. We submit inquiries to USCIS on pending applications.
- Passports: Expedite passport applications and provide helpful information.
- IRS: We can contact IRS to assist with complicated tax problems, obtain copies of previous tax returns, and refer to IRS advocates who can help.
- Small Business: Assistance and information on SBA loans, upcoming seminars, government contract opportunities and overseas exports.

- Military: We assist active duty military personnel with unresolved issues by standard military procedure, medals requests and compassionate reassignment due to family problems.
 - Veterans: Questions concerning care at VA hospitals, claims for VA pensions, disability benefits, Post 9/11 G.I. Bill/education and training, home loan guarantees, military records and information to assist homeless veterans.
 - Seniors: Assistance with questions on Medicare coverage and Social Security programs, including retirement and survivor benefits, disability and Supplemental Security Income (SSI).
 - Washington Tours: Provide information on U.S. Capitol tours and other DC sites. Please call six weeks prior to your trip for best results: 202-225-5256.
 - Internships: Provide unpaid/volunteer opportunities for high school and college students. Interns will learn about vital community services/organizations and develop a better understanding of Federal, State and local governments.
- More info: napolitano.house.gov/serving-you.

STAFF DIRECTORY

District Office – El Monte

Perla Hernandez Trumkul, District Director
Hector Elizalde, Deputy District Director
Elena Robles, Sr. Field Representative/Caseworker
Licett Figueroa, Field Representative/Scheduler
Carrie Lam, Caseworker
Bob Pence, Field Representative/Caseworker
Barbara Dickerson, Mental Health Liaison

Capitol Office – Washington, D.C.

Daniel Chao, Chief of Staff
Joe Sheehy, Legislative Director
Jerry O'Donnell, Communications Director/Senior Advisor
Jonah Cunningham, Senior Policy Advisor
Joseph Ciccone, Senior Advisor
Morgan Leonard, Legislative Assistant

To receive email newsletter updates, visit: napolitano.house.gov/contact-me/newsletter or call 202-225-5256.